Attachment B: Purpose and Need Summary

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of the proposed project is to:

- Improve corridor mobility by increasing the person carrying capacity of Interstate 10 (I-10)
- Decrease travel time for High Occupancy Vehicles (HOVs) and public transit vehicles along the corridor
- Extend the HOV system service limits
- Provide incentive and opportunity for individual drivers to switch from single-occupancy vehicles to carpooling or transit
- Implement corridor improvements that are consistent with the key goals of the Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG's) 2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- Provide regional air quality benefit consistent with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).

Need for the Project

The I-10 is a mainline corridor through San Bernardino County that is heavily used by commuters and for goods movement from Los Angeles County to the inland areas. The proposed I-10 HOV lane addition project (project) will address the I-10 corridor's deficiencies as it relates to shared ride commuters. By 2040, the populations of the San Bernardino Valley and San Bernardino County as a whole are expected to increase by 60-70%. In addition, these San Bernardino residents may commute to business centers in other counties for employment. The growth in population and tendency for longer commutes is expected to increase the traffic volumes and delays for carpoolers and transit users along the corridor. The I-10 HOV system currently ends in western San Bernardino County resulting in more travel time and more miles traveled for shared-ride commuters who live in Fontana, Rialto, San Bernardino, and Redlands. With the anticipated increase in congestion a need exists to increase the person carrying capacity of the I-10 corridor. The listing of the proposed project in the 2008 RTP indicates that the proposed improvements will address the RTP goals of mobility, reliability, productivity, and safety. Lastly, HOV lanes may reduce vehicle trips resulting in less vehicle emissions and improved air quality.